

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in strong support of Massachusetts' application for a Presidential Disaster declaration to assist homes and businesses that have been damaged by the devastating flooding across Massachusetts that occurred this week.

In a span of just 72 hours, a record rainfall of 10 inches hit Massachusetts, causing extreme flooding to seriously damage homes, businesses, roads, and public infrastructure, especially in Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. In many cities and towns, entire neighborhoods were flooded.

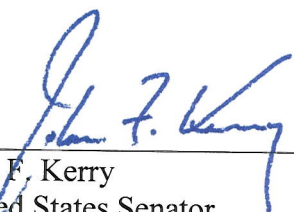
As a result, many small business owners face not only the cost of mitigating water damage to their properties but also face additional loss because their stores were forced to be closed during the storm and in many cases can not open until they are able to make necessary repairs. In an economy that has already tested the resilience of these businesses, they are in even more desperate need of disaster assistance and loans from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Throughout the six counties most significantly impacted by flooding, there are over two thousand homes and businesses reported still to be without power. Seventeen major roadways remain closed due to flooding and significant damage. Thirteen dams are currently under close observation and damage to seven of these dams are causing flooding and evacuations. Residents have been displaced from their homes, many of whom are elderly.

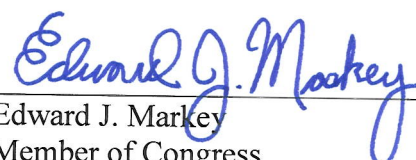
Governor Patrick is providing your Administration with all the required documentation and evidence required for a disaster declaration. Therefore, we urge you to act swiftly and provide a disaster declaration for Massachusetts to help address the urgent situation in our state and mitigate the losses related to the flooding of homes and businesses in every county.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



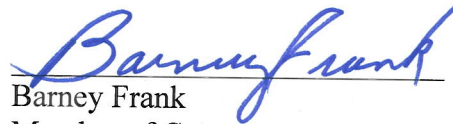
John F. Kerry
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



Scott Brown
United States Senator



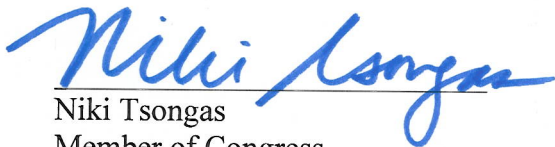
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



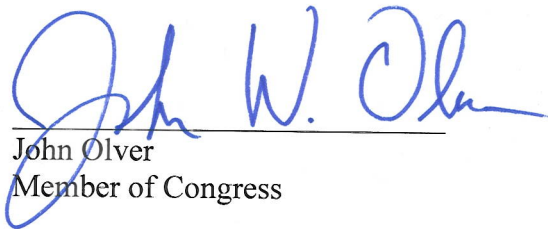
William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



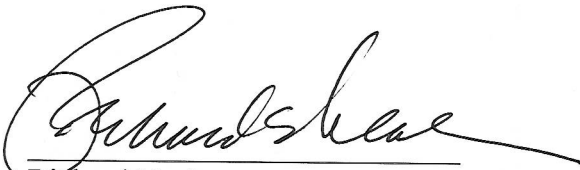
James McGovern
Member of Congress



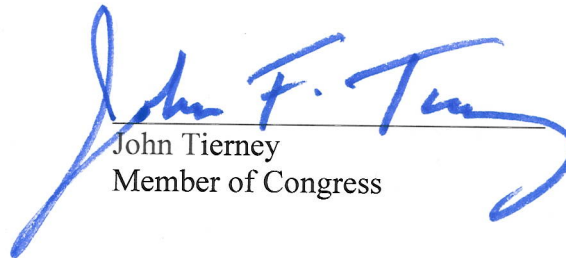
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



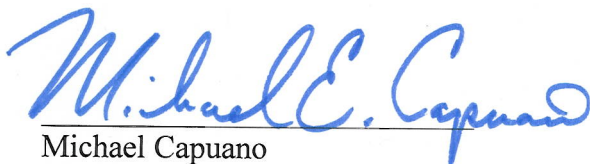
John Olver
Member of Congress



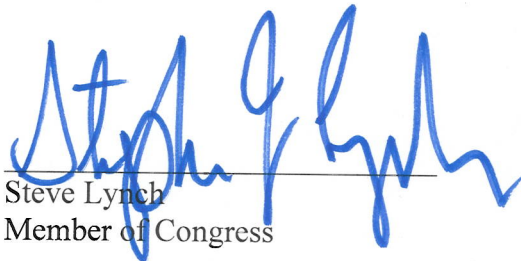
Richard Neal
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Steve Lynch
Member of Congress